

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

Acting in accordance with Article V, Sections 1 and 5 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, and the inherent power of this Court, it is hereby ordered, adjudged, and decreed that:

Part G, Section 1.7 of the General Administrative Rules for all Louisiana Courts be and is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Section 1.7. Parameters on the Expenditure of Public Funds for Professional Development.

- (a) **Intent.** It is the general intent of this Section to place parameters on the expenditure of public funds for discretionary travel by judges to attend conferences, seminars, and conventions for the purpose of continuing legal education, to maintain professional competence in the law or judicial administration in accordance with Canon 3A(1) and 3B(1) of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct, or otherwise pertaining to the professional development of judges.
- (b) **Definitions.** The following definitions shall be applicable to this Section.

- (i) The word “judge” means a justice of the supreme court; a judge of a court of appeal; a judge of a district court; a judge of a juvenile court; a judge of a family court; a judge of a parish court; a judge of a city court; a judge of a municipal court; or a judge of a traffic court.
- (ii) The term “public funds” means legislatively-appropriated funds, judicial expense funds, self-generated funds, and funds of federal, state, local, parish, or municipal governments. The term does not include federal, state or local government grant funds; private sector grant funds; scholarships; or tuition or fee waivers of any nature.
- (c) **Fiscal Year Cap.** No judge shall spend more than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) in public funds, on a fiscal year basis, on fees, costs and expenses pertaining to attendance at conferences, conventions, or seminars. This fiscal year monetary cap shall not be applicable to the expenditure of public funds for state judicial branch, state judge association, or state court business meetings; ceremonial functions attended by a judge in a judicial capacity away from his or her court; events attended by a chief judge as a representative of the state or the chief judge’s court; federal, state or local government

committee work; judicial branch or court committee work; or quasi-judicial activities permitted by Canon 4B of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct.

- (d) **Nexus.** Public funds may be expended by a judge for attending a conference, seminar, or convention only when there is a correlation between the purpose and function of the conference, seminar or convention and the work of the judge or the judge's court.
- (e) **Local Court Policies.** Individual courts may adopt policies concerning the expenditure of public funds by judges to attend conferences, seminars, or conventions that are more restrictive than the policies contained in this Section.

This rule shall become effective on July 1, 2013 and shall remain in full force and effect thereafter, until amended through future Orders of this Court.

Given under our hands and seal this _____ day of May, 2013, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR THE COURT:

Bernette J. Johnson, Chief Justice